

Abstract of the Disclosure

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A combined use CU timer system establishes expiry times by which partially filled cells in each of a number of data streams should be transmitted. A record is kept of groups of one or more data streams which share the same expiry time. Upon the expiry time for a group of data streams being reached the partially-filled cells for the data streams in the group are sent. The invention facilitates tracking expiry times for a large number of data streams. Implementations of the invention may be used in sending AAL2 packets over ATM links according to the I.363.2 standard.